Daily Report

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Yugoslav, Croatian Officials Meet in Geneva

LD2701123994 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1158 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Geneva, 27 Jan (TANJUG)—Federal Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic arrived in Geneva today for talks with Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Simic and Granic are expected to have talks in the Palais des Nations this afternoon on the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis, the implementation of the Yugoslav-Croatain declaration signed on 19 January in Geneva, and a series of humanitarian issues. [passage omitted]

Communique on Normalizing Relations

LD2701222594 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Delegations of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] have held a meeting in Geneva. The delegations were led by Mate Granic, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Croatia, and FRY Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic. The meeting was held on the basis of the recently signed declaration between the two countries. After the talks, which were of a consultative character, both sides said that they reached an agreement on several matters. This is assessed as a step forward in the implementation of the joint declaration.

Both sides have taken all necessary steps to ensure that the two governments' offices open in Zagreb and Belgrade by the 15 February deadline and that all related technicalities are agreed upon.

They also agreed to set up a joint commission of the two governments to deal with displaced persons, refugees, and other humanitarian issues. The two governments are to appoint high-ranking and responsible members of the commission as soon as possible and invite ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] and UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] representatives to take part in the commission's work. The commission will be open for contacts with the families of missing people and their associations.

Both sides took on the responsibility to unconditionally exchange information on the missing persons and make extra efforts to find them. At the same time the commission will be allowed access to all locations presumed to house either imprisoned or missing persons.

The two sides also examined all other issues of importance for the normalization of relations between the two countries and for Croatian-Serbian relations as a whole. They agreed to examine these issues at regular meetings at high political level, in principle once a month, in the capitals Zagreb and Belgrade on an alternating basis.

To this aim Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, invited Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic to visit Zagreb. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date was fixed for 12 February. On this occasion there will also be held the first meeting of the joint commission for missing persons and humanitarian issues.

Simic Comments on Meeting

LD2701230494 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2041 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jan (TANJUG)—Speaking about the meeting with his Croatian colleague Mate Granic, Federal Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic told TANJUG that the most important thing was that today's meeting with representatives of the Croatian Government, which lasted nearly six hours took place in a highly tolerant atmosphere.

In Simic's assessment, today's meeting is paving the way toward the realization of the joint declaration signed by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia two weeks ago in Geneva.

Two exceptionally important proposals were made concrete today: To set up a joint commission under the aegis of international humanitarian organizations (ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] and UNHCR).

Deputy Prime Minister Simic laid special emphasis on the beginning of regular visits by highest-ranking officials from Belgrade and Zagreb, which in practice starts on 12 February when the FRY deputy prime minister will be received by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. In Simic's opinion, this will, at the same time, be an inaugural meeting of the Commission for Missing Persons.

Serbian-Croatian relations can be successfully resolved only through bilateral efforts and this is an example of how to tackle the crisis in former Yugoslavia, said the Yugoslav deputy prime minister, concluding his statement for TANJUG.

Navy Commander: 80 Percent of Vessels Obsolete

AU2701203194 Sofia Bulgarska Televiziya Network in Bulgarian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Report by Marin Gavrilov on a news conference by Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ventseslav Velkov on 27 January; place not given]

[Text] At a news conference today, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ventseslav Velkov declared that 80 percent of the 57 fighting ships and 37 auxiliary vessels and launches in the Bulgarian Navy are obsolete. The navy is at the limit of its combat readiness, he said, and our sailors may not manage to hold out unless finances are allocated in the Navy budget to overcome the problems.

[Begin Velkov recording] Most Bulgarians, for one reason or another, use the sea only for recreation, and they do not see the big problems that face Bulgaria as a naval power. [end recording]

It is very expensive to maintain the old vessels, but no money is available to buy new ones. The submarines have had their armaments removed, but to acquire a new one someone will have to cough up about $170 million. A fighting frigate is too expensive for us; one costs 350 million German marks. At the moment there is not enough money even for repairs.

Rakovski Officers Legion Denies TRUD Report

AU2701201394 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 21 Jan 94 p 1

[BULGARSKA ARMIYA staff report: "The Rakovski Officers Legion Respects the Law and Does Not Interfere With Politics"]

[Text] Major Rusi Gochev, chairman of the Bulgarian Rakovski Officers Legion, has sent a letter to Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev and to Minister of Defense Valentin Aleksandrov, which reads as follows:

"On 7 January 1994 the daily TRUD published a report under the headline: 'Presidential Advisers Reach for the Army' in which our organization is mentioned among other things.

"After thorough investigations and numerous interviews, we officially declare that neither our leadership nor individual member-clubs of the Legion have ever commented on the president's letter to the commanders of the Armed Forces' branches, or on the relations between the president's Military Office and the Army's General Staff.

"We are convinced that the aforementioned report has cited the Legion in a deliberately distorted fashion, prompted by evidently biased political intentions.

"Similar 'operations' are likely to provoke tension among our members. They are contributing to a politicization of the soldiers' life which is counterproductive to the consolidation of the Bulgarian Army's fighting ability."

Poll: Public Has 'Highest Confidence' in Army

AU2701181794 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 24 Jan 94 p 1

[BULGARSKA ARMIYA staff report: "Army Once Again Enjoys Highest Confidence"]

[Text] According to a poll conducted this month by BBSS-Gallup International, 69 percent of the respondents have confidence in the Bulgarian Army. The result indicates a traditionally high level of popularity, one that cannot be achieved by other institutions or any individual in Bulgaria!

The president, who enjoys the confidence of 49 percent of the respondents, continues to lead the list of politicians, followed by Aleksandur Tomov, Georgi Pirinski, and Lyuben Berov. The police maintain the popularity figure of 43 percent that they reached at the end of last year. Of those polled, 27 percent have faith in the government, while parliament's rating continues to be low—only 12 percent. Despite this, more than half of the 19 most popular politicians are National Assembly deputies.

Talks on Radio Free Europe Continue

LD2701164894 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Head of the Czech broadcasts of Radio Free Europe [RFE] Pavel Pechacek has praised the positive attitude of our government in the talks about the possible transfer of the station from Munich to Prague. The decision has not been made yet, Pavel Pechacek said, and added that further talks on the topic will take place in Prague tomorrow.

In his words, however, the Czech section and the Institute of Free Europe and Liberty should move to Prague by the end of June. The talks on accommodating these sections favor the former building of the National Assembly.

According to Pavel Pechacek, representatives of RFE should have talks in Bratislava with the Slovak Government on Friday. According to Pechacek, the Slovak Government, in connection with its proposal to end the possibility of RFE broadcasts on Velke Kostolany, Poprad, and Presov transmitters, probably wants to offer an alternative solution.

Radiozurnal Extends Broadcasts, Awaits Decision

AU2701211494 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech 26 Jan 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Czech Radio Has Extended Its Long-Wave-Band and Medium-Wave-Band Broadcasts"]

[Text] Prague—Czech Radio will, for now, extend its broadcasts on the long-wave band until the end of February, and that with a 50-percent output. At the slightly reduced medium-wave band, Radiozurnal will stay until the end of 1994, Czech Radio Director General V. Jezek stated yesterday.

"We will reduce the medium-wave network by the reduction of the output of certain transmitters and their number. The 50-percent output of the transmitters on the long-wave band will save us money without substantially affecting the content of the broadcasts. Thanks to the accommodating approach by the Ceske Radiokomunikace company [Czech Radiocommunications], we will not pay the lease tariff in February. While on the medium-wave band we have opted for this solution until the end of the year, we have extended the broadcasts by one month on the long-wave band because we must await the decision by economy ministers and the government," Jezek said. According to him, the economy ministers are to deal with the problem of Czech Radio on Tuesday, 1 February. "Several bilateral talks are currently in progress, in which we are explaining our financial needs," Jezek said.

At the end of last year, because of the negative response on the part of the listeners to the proposed changes in the broadcasts of Czech Radio, Jezek decided to extend the broadcasts of the Radiozurnal station on the long- and medium-wave bands until 30 January. He also pointed out that, if the Finance Ministry does not announce the date and the amount of the increase of the license [subscription] fee by 20 January, or if the new license fees do not cover the already projected deficit and Radiozurnal's use of the long- and medium-wave bands, the Czech Radio management will definitely be forced to abandon the long-wave band on 1 February 1994. It will also have to substantially reduce the medium-wave broadcasts of Radiozurnal and, for the second half of 1994, "further reduce the programing plans of Czech Radio."

The current 20-koruna [Kc] license fee is to be increased to Kc25 or 29, and that probably on 1 March.

Statistics Show Economic Crime Growing

AU2701171794 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 25 Jan 94 p 3

[Article by "joe, ctk": "Economic Crime Increased in 1993 by More Than 55 Percent"]

[Text] Prague—Economic crime, which recorded an increase of 6,581 incidents (i.e., 55 percent) in comparison with 1992, is the fastest-growing form of crime. According to the statistics of the Czech Republic Police, the growth of economic crime surpassed even the so-far most widespread property-related crime, which rose 15.4 percent last year in comparison with 1992, and violent crime, with its increase of 6.7 percent. Policemen specializing in this field, the number of whom remained virtually unchanged last year, managed to solve 77.1 percent of the offenses in the sphere of economic crime (it was 83 percent in 1992).

The almost 18,500 economic offenses resulted in damages in excess of 4.2 billion korunas [Kc] last year. Because the police statistics cover only proven cases, the police staff specializing in this area estimate the actual extent of the damages to be far higher. The volume of ascertained economic crimes will apparently continue to grow in the years to come because many so-far-undetected cases may be discovered by the control activity of the financial authorities. Economic crime currently comprises primarily embezzlement and fraud, but there is also a high percentage of larceny (including the theft of shipments), bribery, unauthorized enterprise, smuggling, illegal currency trading, transgression of economic discipline, unauthorized use of vehicles that do not belong to the user, etc.

On a long-term basis, property-related crime (particularly burglary and simple theft) dominates among its individual forms. With its more than 327,000 cases, it represents about 82 percent of all crimes. The total damage caused by property-related crimes surpassed Kc9.6 billion, and only 21 percent of them have been solved.

Kovac Interviewed on Visit to Poland

LD2701201994 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpts] President Michal Kovac returned from his official visit to Poland just over an hour ago. Today he visited the Royal Palace on Wawel Hill in Krakow and then met the representatives of the Slovak community in Poland. During the flight home, Michal Michalcik interviewed the president on his visit.

[Begin recording] [Michalcik] [passage omitted] To what extent do you feel that the intentions with which you went on your first visit to Poland were fulfilled?

[Kovac] I think that, in some aspects, the visit was succesful beyond my expectations. [passage omitted] It would certainly have been more effective if agreements could have been signed on this occasion and if [Economics] Minister Ducky had also taken part in the visit, particularly because the Polish side expected it. In spite of this, I think that this changed nothing regarding the overall results of the visit, taking into consideration what can generally be expected from a presidential visit.

[Michalcik] The affair concerning Milan Panic's letter started in Bratislava on the day you left [25 January]. Do you think the choice of date was deliberate?

[Kovac] I cannot say anything for certain. I only know that the letter was dispatched from the Presidential Office to the Office of the Government on 17 or 18 January and that it was lying there for quite a long time. This means that there was an opportunity to react to it in some way by 19 or 20 January. I cannot say whether the prime minister received the letter from his clerks only later, or whether something else happened. In any case, as regards this visit, the date it was made public was not well chosen.

[Michalcik] During your talks with Polish President Walesa and other officials, a number of interesting proposals and projects emerged—namely, a total opening of our borders and a systematic dialogue within the Partnership for Peace project. Speaking at a news conference, you said that this is no longer just a shared wish but an inevitable course of action brought about by circumstances. [passage omitted]

[Kovak] We have come to realize that our nations are very close to each other, we are neighbors sharing a border almost 600 km in length, and we have the same problems, common interests, and internal and foreign policies. Therefore, it would be very irresponsible not to make use of this chance.

This conclusion has been reached not only on the level of presidents but, in my view, also on the level of the Polish Government as well as the Sejm and Senate. Therefore, I feel entitled to expect that the next meeting between the [Slovak and Polish] prime ministers, perhaps also between the Polish and Slovak Cabinets, will really mean a significant turning point, because at these meetings issues will be specified and a number of agreements prepared for signing. We are fully aware of the fact that, without a proper basis formed by agreements, it is not really possible at present to develop our relations on various levels. [end recording]

Russian Envoy Discusses Security, Zhirinovskiy

AU2701171494 Bratislava SLOBODNY PIATOK in Slovak 28 Jan 94 p 3

[Interview with Sergey Vladimirovich Yastrzhembskiy, Russian ambassador to the Slovak Republic, by Stefan Sugar; place and date not given: "Democracy Will Not Be a Springboard for Zhirinovskiy"]

[Text] [Sugar] Mr. Ambassador, the visit by U.S. President Bill Clinton to Brussels, Prague, and Moscow had a dramatic prelude in the diplomatic war that Russian President Boris Yeltsin provoked with his letter to the governments of Western states. He indicated in it that the rapid admission of the Visegrad Four states into NATO could have unfortunate repercussions for the fate of democracy in Russia. From this point of view, what is your assessment of President Clinton's visit to Moscow and the Partnership for Peace plan?

[Yastrzhembskiy] I would like to turn first to President Yeltsin's letter, from which it is obvious that we are not opposed to individual countries choosing their allies according to their own way of thinking or to their joining military-political organizations. We wanted to make sure, however, that the interests of Russia are also taken into consideration in any measures to guarantee peace and security in Europe. In my opinion, the rapid admission of the Visegrad Four countries into NATO would mean a new division of Europe, whose lines would be drawn on the borders of the former Soviet Union. Therefore, we have proposed that security in Europe be discussed with the Russian Federation, and the course of President Clinton's visit to Brussels, Prague, and Moscow shows that the West has taken our point of view into consideration. The outcome of this is the Partnership for Peace plan, which, in many respects, is identical to our views. We rate the visit to Moscow by President Clinton very positively, and we see it as a heartfelt sign of the solidarity of Washington and the U.S. President with Russia. We think that the decision made by NATO in Brussels is sensible and realistic because it respects both the interests of NATO and those of the postcommunist countries in East Europe and the Russian Federation.

[Sugar] The Atlantic Alliance was established after World War II as a defense against the penetration of communism into Western Europe. This danger has passed because the Soviet Union has collapsed, and its ideology has been discredited. Where does Russia see the mission and purpose of NATO in today's postcommunist Europe?

[Yastrzhembskiy] This is an apt question. The former military and ideological adversary of the West, organized within the Warsaw Pact, has indeed disintegrated, and the question now is with and against whom NATO intends to devise Europe's security.

We consider NATO to be an important partner, and we support all of its measures to bolster peace in Europe. NATO is still needed in Europe because a new threat to peace has arisen. The war in Yugoslavia is the most tragic example of where aggressive nationalism—which is rearing its head in many European countries, including the states of the former Soviet Union—can lead. In some countries this aggressive nationalism is even beginning to manifest itself in military actions, and that is a challenge worthy of NATO.

The second question is, with whom. Partnership for Peace answers it because it expands the sphere of partnership not only to the members of the Visegrad Four but also to the other countries of the former socialist bloc. It is in the common interest of all of us to ensure that the transformation of postcommunist Europe proceeds calmly and in peace by civilized means without bloodletting and tense relations.

[Sugar] This is true, but on both sides there is a certain mistrust founded in historical experiences. The Visegrad Four countries are concerned that democratic developments in Russia may spin out of control, and, therefore, they want to join NATO quickly. On the other hand, the idea that NATO military structures would be on the borders of the former Soviet Union is unacceptable to the Russian Federation. What is Russia afraid of? Of future developments in Germany, perhaps, against which Margaret Thatcher is also warning?

[Yastrzhembskiy] As far as Germany is concerned, it is forgotten that NATO was also established to guarantee democratic developments in the former Nazi Germany and to prevent any return by Germany to its aggressive past. It seems to me that, in this concert of states, the German voice is a democratic one. Today's Germany is completely new and is one of democratic Russia's closest partners. Of course, in Germany—and in other countries—there are also extremist forces that make themselves known from time to time. Today's Germany, however, very sensibly nips these manifestations in the bud.

[Sugar] What danger did President Yeltsin have in mind when he recommended in his letter that the Visegrad Four states not be admitted into NATO?

[Yastrzhembskiy] We have already discussed this issue several times with our Slovak colleagues. The democratic leadership and a certain part of Russian society do not consider NATO to be their adversary. In politics, however, we have to take into consideration the psychology of the whole of society and the intellectual orientation of the army. Namely, we cannot claim that Russian society is united in its assessment of NATO. A certain part of society would view the presence of NATO military structures on the borders of the former Soviet Union as a threat to Russia's national interests, and the postcommunist forces would immediately use this course of action by NATO toward the East to unleash a campaign against Russia's democratic leadership and to discredit it. Under the current conditions, pushing NATO's borders toward the East would, objectively speaking, be directed against the interests of democracy in Russia because this would place President Yeltsin and his colleagues in a very delicate situation. The decision made by NATO in Brussels has sent us a signal that it accepts the interests of democratic Russia and that Europe's security cannot be resolved at variance with Russia's interests.

[Sugar] Concern about further democratic development in Russia is aroused in particular by Zhirinovskiy's statements about Russia's aspirations for power and about the new division of the world. Zhirinovskiy is reminiscent only of Adolf Hitler in his tactlessness. Some Russian politicians make light of the Zhirinovskiy phenomenon, but Hitler was also just a figure of fun at the beginning. On what wave is Zhirinovskiy riding?

[Yastrzhembskiy] We could devote the entire interview to this man because a whole series of issues is associated with him. It seems that several factors played into Zhirinovskiy's hands in the elections. For example, the factor of national humiliation. The collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from East Europe, the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and the apparent decline—temporarily, I am convinced—of Russia's political importance in the world have all had a very painful effect on the self-confidence of the Russian people. The mood was just as depressing in the Weimar Republic following the acceptance of the Treaty of Versailles. Zhirinovskiy is using this mood to propagate an ultranationalistic and ultrapatriotic program.

Zhirinovskiy is also making use of the cruel aftermath of the shock treatment on the population's standard of living and is scoring points with his very simple recipes for dealing with problems. If we take a closer look, we can easily convince ourselves that this is demagoguery, but, during elections, citizens do not normally seek reality in election promises. For example, Zhirinovskiy declares that he would resolve the crime problem in three months. This really is just demagoguery because the crime rate is associated with the overall economic decline, and there are no miraculous solutions. After 70 years of the Soviet Union, our people have learned to believe in fairy tales, and they also believed Zhirinovskiy and his fairy tales about painless solutions to problems. He concealed the fact that the situation is really grave and complicated and that the government, if it wants to improve the situation, has to adopt unpopular measures. There is no other way.

[Sugar] In the democratic elections, Russia adopted a constitution that executes the so-called presidential principle of government. However, isn't this system just a trap for democracy? What if Zhirinovskiy wins the next presidential election?

[Yastrzhembskiy] In the situation in which Russian society finds itself, the best solution is, in my opinion, a presidential republic. Incidentally, strong executive power is a tradition in Russia, and it would be impossible to push for economic reforms and systemic changes in Russia without it. By the way, perhaps unity and internal stability are also best guaranteed by strong presidential—but democratic—power. Perhaps there will be a new constitution in Russia when the reforms make progress and democracy is bolstered. However, if it were to turn out that this presidential constitution could be a springboard for Zhirinovskiy, it would be in our common interest to prevent this.

[Sugar] Russian politicians say that, following the elections, the social interests of the population will also be taken into consideration in the economic reforms. Can we also interpret this, in a certain way, as a kind of self-criticism on the part of the initiators of the shock treatment?

[Yastrzhembskiy] I think that the strategic course of the Gaydar government's reforms was correct. Its failing was, however, that it did not devote enough attention to the social aspects of reform and that it also forgot to provide information on the economic policy. Macroeconomic schemes are quite incomprehensible to ordinary people, and, therefore, it was necessary to present them in ordinary language so they could be understood. The election results also revealed that, in a country like Russia, with the social habits of its population, the shock treatment should have been accompanied by stronger social assistance for the socially most dependent sectors of the population. The new government will do more as far as social policy is concerned.

[Sugar] I would like to return to what you said about the aggressive nationalism that, as in the case of Yugoslavia, fans conflagrations on other territories by means of its ethnic minorities. The Russian Federation also faces this danger because there are strong groups of Russian inhabitants in many of the former Soviet republics. What will Moscow's policy be in this sphere?

[Yastrzhembskiy] We will strive to ensure that the Russian-speaking population feels like an organic element of the state in which it lives and not an autonomous element. We are not advocating any special collective rights for them. We are asking, first and foremost, for individual civil rights that correspond to the world standard. We are interested in ensuring that these people continue to live where they were born, where they work, and where they gain recognition for helping the state to prosper through their work.

[Sugar] When the Slovak prime minister or minister of national defense visit Moscow, some of the mass media begin to sound the alarm that Slovakia has ulterior motives and that it obviously does not belong to the camp of democratic countries. However, when the Hungarian prime minister or minister of national defense visits Moscow, the aforementioned mass media keeps quiet about this. Tell us, Mr. Ambassador, is there something dangerous for other countries behind good Russian-Slovak relations?

[Yastrzhembskiy] If there are good relations between the governments of two countries, this will begin to alarm certain people and even arouse some jealousy. This jealousy has various motives and various aims. As far as the relations between Russia and Slovakia are concerned, I admit that we harbor warm friendly feelings toward Slovakia and that, in our relations with Slovakia and its young state, we are also following up on the cultural and spiritual ties that reach deep into the past. I will make no secret of the fact that, with regard to our current strategic interests, cooperation between Slovakia and Russia has great prospects, first and foremost, in the technical and economic spheres. We all know that a major part of Slovak output was oriented toward the Soviet market and, whether people like it or not, it is therefore in Slovakia's interest to make use of this orientation. This does not mean that Slovakia should forge good relations only with democratic Russia. There is a proverb: In order to fly, a man would need two wings. Therefore, I think that good relations between Slovakia and the East and Slovakia and the West would best suit Slovakia's national interests. Let me reiterate: The Russian market is very promising for Slovakia and, on the other hand, it is very important for us to have Slovakia as an economic partner.

[Sugar] Thank you for the interview.

Meciar's 'Blow Below the Belt' Examined

AU2701211694 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 26 Jan 94 p 1

[Commentary by Ivan Horsky: "Blow Below the Belt"]

[Text] President Michal Kovac departed yesterday for neighboring Poland, for what is his first state visit abroad this year. As is well known, he had met his host, President Lech Walesa, at the recent summit of the Visegrad Four heads of state with the U.S. President, where the two presidents agreed that the present visit should become a landmark in relations between the two countries.

I will not betray any state secret when I say there is an outright deficit in the two countries' knowledge of one another and, in particular, in the development of economic and commercial contacts, which have registered a rapid decrease in recent years. Therefore, it was to be expected that precisely these topics would figure uppermost on the agenda of the talks in Warsaw.

But, wonder of wonders, neither the minister of economy nor the minister of foreign affairs is in the

delegation accompanying the Slovak president. The minister of the environment is the only government member who was given the green light [to accompany the president]. I am not suggesting that cooperation in this unquestionably important area need not be discussed. The crux of the matter seems to lie in something else, however. Somebody is doing everything he can for the head of state not to grow taller than he is and for the head of state not to be able to ascribe to himself the credit for something that, in the view of the latter, somehow does not belong to him.

This already open hostility endangers the vital interests of our state because it can be expected that such behavior will not go unnoticed by the other side and will boomerang against us and, apparently, will be repaid with interest.

Because the chiefs of government departments who could give an impetus to Slovak-Polish relations were not allowed to go to Warsaw, it must be assumed that the government had far more important problems to deal with at its meeting yesterday.

Meciar Downplays Concerns of Minority Leaders

AU2701155694 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 25 Jan 94 p 1

[TA SR report: "The Borders Are Unchangeable"]

[Text] Dunajska Streda—Yesterday's District Assembly of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] in Dunajska Streda was attended by HZDS Chairman and Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar.

In his opening statement, he pointed out that current HZDS district assemblies confirm that the movement is gathering new strength and that any opposition pressures are in vain because the ruling movement is fulfilling, and will fulfill, its electoral program. He noted that, in conformity with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the movement is trying to address ethnic issues so that everyone's freedom and the equality of all citizens regardless of nationality be guaranteed. No one is a second-class citizen in our country, the prime minister stressed. If someone suffers from the internal complex of being a second-class citizen, let him undergo treatment and not go public with it.

Relations among citizens in the south of Slovakia are not complicated, but the problems are being exaggerated by Central European bodies and also by some circles from Hungary. Our borders are unchangeable, and each political party at home as well as abroad must realize this, Vladimir Meciar said, among other things.

SZDSZ Chairman Views Coalition Prospects

AU2701174094 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 27 Jan 94 p 5

[Interview with Ivan Peto, chairman of the Alliance of Free Democrats, by Szabolcs Szereto; place and date not given: "We Should Not Limit the Coalition Possibilities"]

[Text] [Szereto] You said recently that the next government would start its activity under more difficult conditions than the Antall cabinet did in 1990. Prime Minister Peter Boross also reacted to your statement in a television interview. Would you give us some details about your statement?

[Peto] I would like to point out that I formulated my statement as an assessment of the situation, and not as a value judgment. I did not deal with the question of who was responsible for the situation and to what extent. Statistical data, analyses made by independent experts, and my experience accumulated during my various visits all over the country prove that Hungary's mood and economic situation are worse now. It is a fact that national income has decreased considerably, the agricultural sector has lost its former role of economic stabilizer, unemployment has become a massive problem, and insecurity has generally increased. I think that one of the greatest mistakes of this government was that it did not evaluate Hungary's situation when it came to power. It also belongs to the general picture that many people were not aware of the realities. In formulating its election program, the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ] started from the real situation prevailing in Hungary, because this is the only realistic starting point. This is particularly important in the case of a party that has a good chance of participating in the next government.

[Szereto] What will the SZDSZ deputies' meeting that starts tomorrow deal with?

[Peto] It will be the task of group meetings to finalize the detailed program. While this will actually be a professional workshop activity, at the plenary meeting where Gabor Kuncze and I will give speeches we want to formulate our ideas to the broadest public possible. We would like to present a comprehensive picture about the SZDSZ to the broadest public possible. Ever since we elected Gabor Kuncze as our nominee for the position of prime minister, a special division of labor has emerged between us. According to this, Gabor Kuncze speaks mainly about parliamentary and government affairs, program formulation, and economic issues to be placed in the center of our election campaign. As the chairman of the party, I will speak mainly about the general political situation, including the situation of the SZDSZ.

[Szereto] Under your leadership, the SZDSZ emerged as a uniform and organized party in the eyes of the public, and the arrival of the former members of the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] will obviously strengthen your position. However, opinion polls show that the SZDSZ does not enjoy the same level of support today as it enjoyed in 1990. In view of this, what is your opinion about the election prospects of the SZDSZ and generally of the liberal bloc?

[Peto] Indeed, the SZDSZ is not yet in the position it wants to achieve during the elections, but this was the case months before the 1990 elections too. Opinion polls are multifaceted and we can have an idea about the election prospects of a party not only on the basis of primary support, but also on the basis of other factors. Some 40 percent of voters would welcome the SZDSZ in the next coalition, which is a pretty good percentage. Many people predict an SZDSZ victory, and we have strong secondary support, and very few people say that they would not vote for us in any case. Therefore, the SZDSZ has considerable resources and, based on all this, I am sure that we will give our supporters a pleasant surprise at the elections. We are striving to make sure that the liberal forces show a considerable presence in the new parliament, and this is why an SZDSZ-FIDESZ agreement was achieved. In harmony with this agreement, we are building relations with other liberal parties, like the Agrarian Federation and the Party of Entrepreneurs. With them, and with the Republic Party, we will nominate joint candidates. In my opinion, the liberal forces have good election chances and it seems that they will play a decisive role in the next parliament. I am also sure that it will be impossible to form a coalition without the liberal parties.

[Szereto] On the basis of various statements, one can conclude that the positions of the two parliamentary liberal parties differ somewhat regarding coalition intentions. Your political rivals often accuse you of approaching the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP]. What are your relations with the MSZP like, and what kind of coalition ideas do you have?

[Peto] It is useless to deny that the SZDSZ and the FIDESZ speak differently about coalition possibilities but, in my opinion, these differences can be bridged. When the coalition talks started, the SZDSZ started from the premise that we must preserve all the possibilities of a future coalition. We did not want, nor do we want now, to limit our available political scope with artificial means, political gestures, or unilateral declarations. We regard the statements of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and Christian Democratic People's Party [KDNP] deputies as a fact, namely their slogan of "not with the SZDSZ." Indeed, we did not have too many chances of cooperating with these parties after the elections. The statements coming from the government side, statements that present the FIDESZ as a proper party as opposed to the SZDSZ, obviously aim at disbanding the liberal alliance. Although the FIDESZ leaders made a lot of unfriendly statements about the socialists, they did not exclude the possibility of a coalition in principle, and the MSZP did not clearly exclude any liberal party from a possible coalition either. I would characterize the relations between the SZDSZ and the MSZP as a correct coexistence: We do not join the so-called anticommunist campaign, we maintain our objective criticism of the MSZP policy, and we formulate our concerns. While the MSZP focuses on its social sensitivity, in my view, this party continues to be largely bound to the elite that also profited from the previous regime. The appearance of some socialist

candidates and others also shows that many representatives of the old regime who have been in the background so far will become "reactivated" at the next elections. This could produce internal tensions within the MSZP, because those who played a role in this party so far and were active politically in the course of the past four years despite all the inconveniences involved will now be able to meet in their own party with people against whom they represented the concept of reform and democratic transformation. At the same time, one can see a contradiction between the written economic concepts of the MSZP and the declared goals presented at meetings. All this makes it difficult to evaluate the socialists' real political intentions. The possible coalition talks after the elections will actually show the extent to which the actual concepts and political practice of the MSZP are compatible with the liberal ideals. I regard the attempt of "connecting" the SZDSZ with the MSZP as part of the negative campaign. As part of this campaign, rumors have been spread lately of secret negotiations between the two parties on cooperation in the second round of the elections. There is no basis for all this, and it would also be useless, because it could happen that the two parties become the most serious rivals of each other in the second round.

National Front Activist Discusses Extreme Right

AU2701181994 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 27 Jan 94 p 7

["G.J.Z.-L.S."-signed report: "Gyorkos Leads the 'Hungarists'—The Budapest Leader Gives Interview to our Newspaper"]

[Text] In addition to the World National Popular Rule Party [VNP]—whose leaders are being investigated by the police after being reported by the National Security Office—other registered and illegal organizations also openly adhere to the heritage and ideology of the former Arrow Cross men [Hungarian Nazis]. It seems that these organizations have serious disagreements. This is what we learned from one of the activists—interviewed by our correspondents—of the Hungarian National Front [Magyar Nemzeti Arcvonal, MNA], which has already been announced as a movement. Istvan Gyorkos, whose Nazi activities were noted by the authorities and who was sentenced by the court to suspended imprisonment for incitement against the community in 1993, is the "national commander" of the MNA. We interviewed the leader of the MNA's youth group in Budapest. His name is known to our editorial staff but he wished to preserve his anonomity in the interview in which he spoke about the extreme right-wing movements in Hungary, their connections and operation.

On 21 November 1993, Istvan Gyorkos officially announced the Hungarian National Front Movement at the court. As they do not yet wish to function as a party, they do not need court registration for their operation. As opposed to the VNP led by Albert Szabo, the MNA considers itself to be the true Hungarist [Hungarian Nazi] movement.

The Budapest party leader spoke about Gyorkos as the successor of former Arrow Cross leader Ferenc Szalasi with legal continuity. It is alleged that the former leader of the old Arrow Cross Party who was living in Australia instructed Gyorkos to organize and lead the new Hungarist movement. The MNA is a nationwide organization. As its activist stated, the Hungarist movement has regional leaders and it is led by a so-called leading core. "We do not have any membership, we only have supporters in all large cities of the country. We also have influence on a number of social organizations, for example the National Guard Federation [Nemzetor Szovetseg], the scout troops, and the National Federation of Political Prisoners [POFOSZ]," he said. The MNA is mainly supported by the younger and older skinheads and it already has a propaganda group.

In Hungary, the skinhead group called Szalasi Guard is also based on Arrow Cross traditions. Its leader, just as our interviewee, was one of the accused in the court case of skinheads relating to the incident at Dobrentei square. Our interviewee knows them but he distances himself from them because, as he says, the Szalasi Guard is too aggressive and simple: "All they do is keep drawing arrow crosses on walls."

His views on the VNP are even more bleak. He knows Albert Szabo, its leader, because after his return from Australia, Szabo got in touch with Gyorkos. He is supposed to have been instructed by the Australian Arrow Cross membership to help the MNA's party building work. However, instead, Szabo started to "build his own career on separate ways." Szabo deceives the unsuspecting young people, the skinheads. Istvan Gyorkos is accepted throughout the world but even the Australian Arrow Cross membership has distanced itself from Szabo, our interviewee claimed.

According to our interviewee, Albert Szabo has often received cash from the editor of the NAPKELET journal. He also asked for financial help from Australia but he was refused. Gyorkos's group did not support him financially, although, according to the activist, it could have. The MNA receives money from the Australian Arrow Cross membership, from its wealthier members. In fact, they even have enterprises: They want to publish and sell books, bumper stickers, and T-shirts.

They also have foreign connections. They know the American and West European neo-Nazis. "They think in terms of international national socialism, but the MNA first has to become strong in Hungary. We no longer distribute the militant national socialist bulletin called NEW ORDER which is made in the United States," our interviewee said. We also have links with extreme right-wingers in Russia, namely with the Pamyat radical nationalist organization.

According to reports, at the meetings of the VNP, Szabo denied the Holocaust and the destruction of Jews in the Second World War. The MNA's youth leader also accepts this view and treats it as a historic fact. However, he does not deal with this issue because "Hungarian issues are more important for the MNA."

President Walesa Receives Knesset Speaker

LD2801114594 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1039 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Warsaw, 28 Jan—President Lech Walesa today received Israel's Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, who has been on a parliamentary visit to Poland.

Weiss handed the president a letter from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in which he recalls the importance of the visit to Israel by Lech Walesa and underscores that Poland occupies an important place in Europe. Prime Minister Rabin writes that everything connected with the known Israeli-Palestinian declaration is most important in Israeli policy.

During talks in the Belweder Palace, reference was also made to history and the contemporary issues of both states and the world. President Walesa said that Poland is presented so far as a cemetery of our (Polish and Jewish) nations. He called for looking into the future and focusing on the youth and their upbringing. He also underscored that Poland is a victim of the betrayal by "the great of this world."

Walesa Interviewed on Europe Without Borders

AU2701184494 Bratislava SME in Slovak 25 Jan 94 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Polish President Lech Walesa by Jozef Huebel in Warsaw on 24 January: "There Are No Contradictions; We Just Do Not Know"]

[Text] *On the occasion of the visit by Slovak President Michal Kovac to Poland on 25-27 January, Polish President Lech Walesa answered four questions from SME via our collaborator in Warsaw, STV correspondent Jozef Huebel.*

[Huebel] Mr. President, there are many unsolved problems between Poland and Slovakia: We have only nine border crossings, while there were 40 of them before the war. Slovak korunas cannot be legally exchanged in Polish banks and, vice versa, your zlotys cannot be exchanged in Slovak banks. Neither the "Carpathian Euroregion" nor the "Tatras Euroregion" projects have made any progress. A joint Polish-Slovak bank still does not exist, and signatures are also missing on the treaty on prevention of double taxation and protection of investments. We have not correlated our customs policy. When are these problems going to be solved?

[Walesa] I said once that, by the year 2000, Poland will remove all borders that separate our country from its neighbors. The border should be marked only by good directional signs and computers so that every traveler can choose the best alternative route for the remainder of his trip. I am doing everything in my power so that no border stands between us by the year 2000. Only, we must even our standards by then. People are like communicating vessels: If there is a difference in levels, a Niagara Falls forms. He who has seen them knows how the water thunders, falls heavily, and finally shatters. If the levels match, however, there is no movement, and it is completely safe. That is one of the reasons we should well consider our differences, so that we can reach this safety. If we even up wages, prices, standards, roads, and computers, our unification will be so fast we will not even notice it. Therefore, let us collaborate to even up the standards of our communities, and the border will not be needed.

[Huebel] I will ask a somewhat unpleasant question now: Why do the representatives of our countries—Poland and Slovakia—meet so infrequently? After all, the Slovak Republic has been here for more than a year, you have not come for an official visit, the Polish prime minister has not been there, either, and this visit by President Kovac is the first significant visit in our mutual relations. Will that be amended?

[Walesa] Yes, of course. I have said many times that both you and we have numerous domestic problems now and are engrossed in them. It has to be kept in mind, however, that we are building an economic and legal structure, and the presidents and the other officials have so many worries that they do not have time for anything else. We will try to rectify this, but we can manage only if we succeed in solving our problems. We will then have time also for "external" issues.

[Huebel] Mr. President, would it not be possible to use precisely the Polish-Slovak cooperation as an example to the West that something exists here and that the Visegrad Group has good prospects because of this cooperation?

[Walesa] Of course, I take it! The situation calls for this. It calls for our initiating something. It calls for our relations to be the best, better than between other nations. Again, however, it must be done. There is no doubt that the politicians and the leaders understand each other. We really get along well and speak as in a single voice. On the other hand, we have no idea of technical, ministerial, and directorial solutions—i.e., of a technical concept how to do all of this. Unfortunately, so far we have not found a method to accelerate it all. There are no contradictions; we just do not know.

[Huebel] The stability of our region and the success of the cooperation of the Visegrad Four depends to a great degree on Hungarian-Slovak relations. How do you feel about the problem of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia and the "Gabcikovo" issue?

[Walesa] This problem is here to stay. If the process of European integration were faster, this problem would not exist. That is because the European principles and various treaties state that everyone has the right to freedom and his characteristic features—but within the borders of integral Europe. Under such circumstances, no one would attempt a division, even if certain groups wanted to preserve their specific features, but, as I say, in a single house! Because these attempts at agglomeration are not very successful, new attempts at division ensue.

Therefore, I believe that we will be able to enter Europe together, rather than go on subdividing. These partitions are not necessary.

Katowice Region TU Becomes Strike Committee

LD2701183494 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1550 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Katowice, 27 Jan—The Board of the Katowice Region of the "Kontra" Trade Union decided today to transform itself into a regional strike committee [RKS], committee chairman Krzysztof Fijalkowski reports.

"Trade unionists envisage strikes in the mining sector, and that is why it has been decided to create the RKS. For the time being, we have declared a strike alert in the mines. We have marked out specific dates for strikes, Andrzej Andrzejczak, the chairman of the "Kontra" National Commission [KK] said, but he nonetheless declined to cite them.

The RKS demands from the government that, among other things, it equalizes disproportions in pay for miners and that it restore the ratio of pay for miners to the national average at a level of 2:1; hold back increases in prices; enact immediate debt restructuring for mines; and create a mining bank, which would allow mines to be made independent of the "usurious rates of the banks."

"Kontra" also demands that mining be recognised as a strategic industry, that the government promises to procure permanent coal reserves, that annual and anniversary bonuses be free of tax, and that the right to a retirement pension after 21 years' work underground be introduced.

Miners Appeal to Pawlak for Higher Wages

WS2801113794 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Article by B.C.: "The Situation Must Change"]

[Text] The talks between the Protest Committee formed by "Solidarity" ["S"], "Solidarity '80" ["S'80"], "Kontra" of the Confederation for an Independent Poland, and the Board of Directors of the Jastrzebie Coal Partnership have not yielded any results. The unionists insist on 15-percent wage increases. The board is prepared to give them only half of that. The miners are still occupying the company's seat, whereas the board is remaining in the building of the Chief Technical Organization. Talks have been broken off; while waiting for the talks to be resumed, the miners prepared a poster newspaper that is being distributed at the Jastrzebie mines. They turn directly to the prime minister; they write mainly about the sale of the Silesian Bank. This is what they wrote in the paper:

"Mr. Prime Minister Pawlak, what is going on? The miners of three trade union centers—'S,' 'S'80,' and 'Kontra'—are protesting the continuous decrease in real wages. They want more for their hard and dangerous work. The owner—that is, the industry minister, who is a member of your government—says 'no' to the modest demands of the miners. At the same time, the ownership transformations minister allows huge and unjustified fortunes to be made in only one day. The loss that we all incurred as a result of the sale of the Silesian Bank is unimaginable to the miners. We want only a 15-percent raise, which is a fraction of 1 percent of the money that was stolen from the Poles. Mr. Pawlak, we know what is going on. We also know the saying: 'If you do not know how to do things, do not shoulder your way to the limelight.' We remember well those declarations: 'The situation does not have to be like this.' Now we are saying: 'The situation must be changed!'"

SLD Urges Proportionate Elections in Gminas

WS2701141194 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 27 Jan 94 p 2

[Article by R.W.: "Proportionality in Gminas; SLD Wants Change of Electoral Law Soon"]

[Text] *Proportionate elections to councils in all gminas [small administrative units], regardless of their size—such is the most important principle of a draft of a new electoral law that has been submitted before the Sejm by a group of Sejm deputies for the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD]. The authors of the draft gave up a few of the provisions that had been submitted before but that were sharply criticized (as aiming to make local elections overly political); these provisions pertained first of all to direct elections of wojtowie [chief officers of groups of villages] and mayors. The authors of the draft also gave up the idea of distributing the same electoral list numbers among the parties as they had during the parliamentary elections. The authors of the draft think that the draft should be debated as soon as possible by a specially created Extraordinary Commission.*

"Whatever it is possible to save, from among the principles applied during elections to the Sejm, must be maintained with regard to local elections"—this is how Sejm Deputy Ryszard Grodzicki of the SLD explained, during Wednesday's [26 January] press conference, why the authors of the draft want to see a uniformization of the election system and proportionate elections to gmina councils everywhere. Up to now, this kind of elections took part only in those gminas whose population exceeded 40,000 people. In smaller gminas, elections took place in one-seat districts: Whoever won became the gmina council member for his particular district. "Such elections were accidental and did not reflect the configuration of forces within gminas," Grodzicki says.

"Fears of allegedly rendering local elections overly dependent on political parties are unjustified," says Professor Stanislaw Gebethner, an expert for the SLD. According to him, the June elections will demonstrate a weakness by all of the parties, with groups of citizens being the primary winners. "Individual candidates will have no chance," Sejm Deputy Grodzicki admits. But he

also adds that any party wanting to run in the elections in a particular gmina will have to collect an appropriate number of signatures, which would support that party's list. "There is no danger of a formalized structure submitting its candidates without the inhabitants' support," Grodzicki says. According to the draft, 15-150 signatures are enough for submitting a list.

To secure places in gmina councils for people who are popular in the particular gmina regardless of the their political affiliation, SLD activists are proposing that anyone who manages to gain 7-percent support can become a council member, even if, according to electoral-law arithmetic, his list will not be taken into account in seat distribution.

According to Sejm Deputy Krzysztof Janik, there were three reasons for the SLD's giving up the idea of direct elections of wojtowie and mayors by all inhabitants of a gmina. First of all, there emerged a fear that the Small Constitution might have to be changed. Second, there emerged "significant opposition by political groups and by those parts of parliamentary clubs that have the power of shaping opinions." Third, the SLD wanted to avoid being accused of settling its own party interests.

"We can see no particular benefits for ourselves from the introduction of the new electoral law," says Ryszard Grodzicki. According to Krzysztof Janik, the SLD is eager to see political parties strengthened, whereas the new election system is supposed to be conducive to that.

Janik also announced that Sejm deputies for the SLD will return (although not at the time of the next elections) at some point to the idea of directly electing mayors and wojtowie. They will also submit a proposal for an electoral law with regard to self-governmental powiat [small administrative units] councils "in the near future." That will be done along with other draft laws pertaining to powiats.

Army General Staff Meets With Walesa, Pawlak

WS2801105794 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 28 Jan 94 p 2

[Article by Z.L.: "Meeting of General Staff With President and Prime Minister"]

[Text] *According to generals of the General Staff's strict leadership, the Army's budget planned for this year "is not conducive to the implementation of tasks that Poland's interests determine for the Armed Forces."*

According to the generals, a lack of funds not only makes it difficult to implement tasks that have already been planned but also determines the fact that the process of the Army's technical deterioration will not be stopped.

This pessimistic analysis was presented to President Lech Walesa, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak during their first visit to the Polish Army's General Staff on Thursday [27 January]. In the presence of Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk and Mieczyslaw Wachowski, minister of state in the President's Office, the officers presented results of analyses and of conceptual work pertaining to the Army's new model. The meeting was closed to the press.

According to the plans, an "aerial-mobile," land-aerial army is to be established within two years, whose basis will be provided by armored forces, landing-storming forces, the air force, and aerial cavalry, Major Mariusz Jedrzejko told us. He is the spokesman for the Collegium of Armed Forces' Commanders of the Republic of Poland and the only person authorized to inform the press on the contents of Thursday's talks. The only reason the General Staff could be happy with the talks (the General Staff, according to recent announcements by its chief, General Tadeusz Wilecki, is to become the chief institution for commanding the Polish Republic's Armed Forces) was that there were unanimous declarations made by both the head of state and the Cabinet chief that they care very much for defense issues.

President Walesa and Prime Minister Pawlak announced that they will support the necessary legislative changes that would make it possible to continue with the reforms in the area of the defense system. They also expressed their interest in the idea of establishing a National Defense Fund that would collect financial means from society. These would then be devoted primarily to purchasing modern combat equipment.

Minister Responsible for Bank Share Prices

LD2701211694 Warsaw TV Polonia Network in Polish 1830 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Marek Borowski said that it was he who determined the price of the Bank Slaski shares and that he is responsible for it.

He added that laying the blame for this on Deputy Finance Minister Stefan Kawalec or the ministry director, Slawomir Sikora, is groundless.

At the same time, Deputy Prime Minister Marek Borowski appealed to the shareholders to keep calm and to be very careful because the present stock market index is risky.

PolSat Given Nationwide Television Franchise

LD2701132094 Warsaw PAP in Polish 1236 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Warsaw, 27 January—The National Broadcasting and Television Council [KRRiT] awarded a nationwide television franchise to PolSat on 27 January. A PAP journalist was told this by Marek Siwiec of the KRRiT.

Andruta Ceausescu To Be Released

AU2701192494 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Today the Bucharest Territorial Military Court accepted the application of Andruta Ceausescu [brother of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu], requesting that he should be released from jail for health reasons.

The judges decided to set Ceausescu free for the next six months, considering that he is suffering from illnesses that cannot be cured within the penitentiary system.

The ROMPRES news agency reminds us that, in his capacity as commander of the Baneasa school of Romania's Ministry of Interior, in December 1989 Andruta Ceausescu participated in the repression of demonstrators, after which he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and reducing to the ranks, for attempted aggravated murder and the instigation of genocide.

Coposu Predicts Short Life for New Government

AU2701185894 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 25 Jan 94 p 1

[Statement by Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party, at a news conference in Bucharest on 24 January: "Mr. Coposu Warns: The Men in Power Will Be Kicked Out of Their Jobs Within 24 Hours of the Change of Regime!]

[Text] "The new government will agonize for a maximum three months after its creation. We do not give the new government, if it is created, more than three months to survive," Mr. Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTCD] said at a news conference yesterday. "This is a very short-term transitional government. According to our information, not even Mr. Ion Iliescu likes the idea of the Romanian National Unity Party [PUNR] joining the cabinet, since he is aware of the image as an extremist party that the PUNR 'enjoys' abroad. The new team will cause negative reactions and will be contested from the very start. The new ministers might not even obtain the endorsement of the parliament, although I do not see why the power should be afraid of that, since its holds the majority there... Anyhow, it is a strong proof of naivete on the part of the people in power to believe that, if they occupy all the decision-taking functions in the current society, they will stay nailed to their chairs. Actually, all these newly appointed people will be kicked out of their jobs within 24 hours of the change of regime..."

He also said that Romania risks being ejected from the Council of Europe if the government does not implement the nine amendments imposed by the aforementioned body within a maximum of six months from the date of adherence. A similar situation will occur if the former owners do not get back the assets confiscated by the communists and sue the Romanian state at the Council of Europe. "It is certain that the owners will win their cases and the restitution verdicts will have to be applied immediately," the PNTCD leader said. "Without foreign financing, the government will get bogged down in petty administrative activities, which will also be blocked themselves by the lack of money. But what is worse, I have yet to hear of a program from either the PUNR or the Social Democracy Party of Romania [PDSR]; their so-called salvation programs are nothing but fantasies. We have never considered Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu to be an authentic prime minister, but rather a candidate for the position."

Karadzic Seeks Lifting of Economic Sanctions

LD2601232894 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2209 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Sarajevo, 26 Jan (TANJUG)—"The French initiative is rather vague to us. We cannot tell whether it calls for the political or military presence of the United States," Srpska republic president Radovan Karadzic told Serb Television, Sarajevo Studio, this evening.

"We are in no way opposed to a more active U.S. and Russian involvement in the political resolution of the crisis," Karadzic added.

Speaking about the Russian initiative, Karadzic assessed that it conforms with what has been envisaged—that such a document should be made public after agreement is reached between the three [Bosnian] sides. "I believe that it is good to insist on this conference under the auspices of the European Union and we are not against the possible engagement of the UN Security Council, the United States, and Russia," Karadzic said.

"However, it seems to me that the international community should find ways to force the Muslim leadership into accepting peace because it is obviously a problem for them to accept anything. This current Muslim political team cannot bring the war to an end because it is incapable of leading its own people to peace and giving it a state of its own. They are leading the Muslim people to their doom," Karadzic stressed.

Commenting on U.S. President Clinton's statement that nobody should be forced to accept solutions unacceptable to them, the Srpska republic president said he welcomes such a stance because, in his view, outside pressure cannot effect a solution in Bosnia.

"What we are insisting on is that the United States and part of the international community begin treating all three sides in the conflict equally, which means that the sanctions should be lifted immediately. I must say that the Muslims have, unfortunately, opted for war, and our people must now close ranks even more and prepare to defend our state. This will require great efforts on our part, but the Muslim leadership must be aware that we will be well prepared for war if it does break out," Karadzic underlined.

Alija Izetbegovic's refusal to accept the Russian initiative was assessed by Karadzic as yet another move aimed at undermining everything that leads to peace.

"The Muslim leaders' deranged hopes that they will conquer all of Bosnia-Herzegovina represent a disaster for the Muslim people. They could not defeat us even when they were allied with the Croats. We and the Croats have opted for peace—a position that leaves the Muslim military option without a ghost of a chance," Radovan Karadzic said.

Karadzic Blames Muslims for Continuing War

LD2801101094 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0023 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Sarajevo, 27 Jan (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the republic of Srpska, has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, in which he points to facts showing that the Muslims in Bosnia are not interested in establishing peace.

"Muslim Army Commander Rasim Delic reiterated threats against the Serb side on 25 January, while Muslim Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic spoke of the concept of continuing the war in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina on 26 January", Karadzic said in his letter to Butrus-Ghali. "At the same time, Alija Izetbegovic is visiting Muslim countries and is asking for their help, which makes us believe that—despite their pretense that they want to negotiate—the Muslims really never gave up their aspiration for the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina", Karadzic stresses. According to Karadzic, this aspiration is "in conflict with the interests of the Serbian and Croatian people in Bosnia."

Recalling that the Serbs and the Croats signed an agreement on the exchange of official representatives during the last round of Geneva negotiations in order to resolve the disagreements through political means, Karadzic notes that the Muslims were also asked to sign a similar agreement, but did not respond. "Muslim demands regarding territorial borders in eastern and western Bosnia, which caused the breakup of the negotiating process, rendered futile the cochairmen's attempts to achieve a result in the peace process that would satisfy all three sides in the conflict".

In his warning to Butrus-Ghali that Izetbegovic's strategic objective is to halt the peace process, Karadzic notes that Izetbegovic was essentially trying to buy time for importing weapons and strengthening the military option.

"Tuzla airport is intended to be used for arms smuggling, which would cause new incidents, for which—as usual—the Serbs would be blamed", Karadzic warns and points out that the problem of humanitarian aid deliveries can be resolved by widening the land corridor to Tuzla. "Although humanitarian deliveries would double this way, Muslim authorities still insist on opening Tuzla airport in an attempt to create a crisis spot", Karadzic says, and adds that the "problem" of replacing UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] troops in Srebrenica has also proven to be another Muslim insinuation. "This, however, does not decrease the possibility of air strikes against the Serbs, despite the fact that such an act could be catastrophic and could cause far-reaching complications".

Karadzic goes on to say: "If we are attacked, we will exercise our legitimate right to self-defense, in which we will use all available forces".

"Now that Muslim intolerance is the only obstacle to peace, I cannot understand why the international community should discuss such an absurd step for achieving absurd objectives," Karadzic says. He adds that the Serbs have fought simply to be able to live on the land they had succeeded in preserving through six centuries of despotism under the Turkish and Austro-Hungarian empires. "We shall fight for another six centuries if need be, but we can have peace as early as tomorrow, provided the rights of each side are respected", Karadzic says to Ghali.

In the conclusion of his letter the president of the Serb Republic calls on the UN secretary general to do his utmost to encourage U.S. diplomacy to clearly underline to the Muslim government in Sarajevo the advantage of peace and the dangers of continuing the war.

Silajdzic: Croatian Troops Concentrate in Prozor

AU2701204394 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government held a session today that addressed the privatization of the social property. The government believes that the identification of all social property should be carried out with the aim of its privatization. At the end of the open part of the session, Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic informed all present that there are indications that major Croatian Army forces are concentrated on the Bosnia-Herzegovina territory, around Prozor, to be precise. He proposed that the government requests additional information about the presence of the Croatian Armed Forces on Bosnia-Herzegovina soil to facilitate a decision about further measures, that is to say, that the government could decide in the course of tomorrow whether to demand an urgent session of the UN Security Council.

HVO Leader Says Serbs Preparing Offensive

LD2701230794 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Serbs are preparing a major offensive against Bihac, and their aim is to take this town and link the republic of Srpska with the so-called Krajina, said General Vlado Santic, Chief of General Staff of the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] in the Bihac region. He has left this town and is on a temporary visit to Split. Gen. Santic said that Serbs were amassing tanks and howitzers around Bihac and bringing in fresh troops from parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina unaffected by war.

Muslims Said Preparing Attack on UNPROFOR

AU2701152494 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The press center of the Serbian Republic Army Drina Corps informs that the Muslims are preparing an attack on the UN Protection Forces' [UNPROFOR] helicopters in the area of Gorazde, Zepa, and Srebrenica in order to provoke a UN Security Council decision to order NATO forces to bomb Serbian positions.

Ganic Comments on Russian Peace Proposal

AU2701153294 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Concerning the Russian initiative for a session of the Security Council in Geneva dedicated to the solution to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Ejup Ganic, member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, stressed for B-H PRESS five factors that were interlinked with this proposal.

The statements by the UN generals that have served in Bosnia-Herzegovina clearly express that the UN Administration has done nothing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It has not observed a single UN resolution, and has brought its mission into an extremely unenviable position. Our argument that the partition of Bosnia, as preached by Lord Owen, forces over 1 million people off their property—therefore they lose their entire private property—has caused much confusion in the West [words indistinct] based on private property. The question arises what kind of a partition is it that takes rights from the people, Dr. Ganic explained.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina attitude is to negotiate only if there are clear political principles. They were set out at the London Conference but have in the meantime been abandoned. In order to reach a solution those principles have to be implemented. A new international conference—not a European one, as Europe has proven itself impotent and ineffective—would involve the problem of the entire region by defining principles and a moral code of conduct.

With the announcement of the withdrawal of some Western troops from Bosnia-Herzegovina, one has to take into account the readiness of Turkey and some other countries to send in their troops. That does not suit those who want to partition Bosnia, Ganic believes. These factors initiated the Russian proposal, which suits the Serbian aggressor. The Russians know that they can have the majority when it comes to the partition of Bosnia, and want thus to force the United Sates to accept that partition. The aim is to drag the United States into such a job. Everything speaks in favor of things returning to the beginning, although that is what the Russians do not want, Presidency member Ejup Ganic said.

Our Assembly has never accepted the partition of Bosnia, but (?internal demarcation is possible). However, every citizen must have the right to his property and the right to participate in political decisionmaking. An attempt is being made to thwart the strengthening of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army by an unfavorable solution for Bosnia-Herzegovina. The drop in the motivation of the Serb army and the drop in the living standards in Serbia does not suit those who want to achieve their greater state ambitions in this region. We are for peace.

for a cease-fire, and for a just solution, Ganic stressed in a statement for B-H PRESS.

Status of Abdic's Western Province Viewed

AU2801112894 Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian 18 Jan 94 pp 12-13

[Article by Damir Jurisic: "Abdic's Dubrovnik-Republic"]

[Text] Ever since 28 September last year, when the constituent assembly, chaired by Fikret Abdic, declared in Velika Kladusa the autonomous province of west Bosnia, making it a separate administrative unit within the union of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the assessments and statements of support or denial of the act have not ceased. As is known, the first to oppose the declaration was the SDA [Party of Democratic Action] of Bihac, then Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, declared the act unconstitutional, and finally asked the 5th Corps of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army to put an end, by military means, to what in his opinion was a short episode of his political opponent, with whom he separated soon after the SDA won the elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Fikret Abdic replied with the proclamation in which he invited "all the citizens, especially the fighters, to defend the people, freedom, democracy, and human dignity with weapons and other means." The national defense of west Bosnia was founded, and it prevented the 5th Corps from controlling the entire territory. The present demarcation line between Izetbegovic's and Abdic's army is somewhere between Cazin and Velika Kladusa.

Croatian president Tudjman supported Abdic's idea of autonomy; shortly after Abdic concluded another agreement with Radovan Karadzic concerning free trade in the Serb-controlled territory, trucks loaded with goods and buses carrying passengers started taking the road connecting Kladusa and Karlovac. The reporters in the area say that the prices are indeed high, but that there are no shortages. There is Franck coffee [Croatian] as well as Pancevo beer. Abdic trades with everyone and he makes no secret of it. On the contrary, he often points out that this form of cooperation with the neighbors who were at one time his war enemies is the only way to survive. The cochairmen of the peace conference on the former Yugoslavia, Owen and Stoltenberg, also acknowledged his project by inviting him to participate in the talks and by giving a positive assessment of his political initiative. According to his own statement, Abdic's basis for establishing autonomy comes from the Geneva peace package for Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to which this state is to be organized on the basis of constituent units. The authorities in the province were established through autonomous acts and laws, the purpose of which is "to secure constitutionality and rule of law, human rights and freedom, market economy, and the equality of all peoples, cultures, and religions."

The Muslim Island

According to the 1991 census, 245,435 people lived on the territory of the autonomous province of west Bosnia (Bihac, Cazin, Velika Kladusa, and Bosanska Krupa, which is now partly under the control of the Bosnian Serbs). Muslims were 80.05 percent of that figure, 13 percent were Serbs, 3 percent Croats, and the remaining 3 percent others. The territory covers a little less than 2,500 square kilometers. The Zagreb-Split railroad passes through Bihac, being the only connection between northern Croatia and Dalmatia; there is also an important road connecting Banja Luka with Knin and Split, and the road connecting western Herzegovina with Zagreb. The most important road for the province is the Bihac-Cazin-Velika Kladusa-Karlovac road, continuing toward Rijeka or Zagreb. If this road is not open, West Bosnia cannot exist, because the road is also the connection with the sea, where, as geopolitician Topalovic says, it exercises its transit rights in the free zone of the port of Rijeka, rather than its territorial achievements.

The autonomous province of west Bosnia is, by its geopolitical position, a Muslim island, which is, in the east, separated by Karadzic's state from Travnik by over a hundred kilometers. Travnik is controlled by Izetbegovic's Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. There are, therefore, no possibilities of creating a corridor by the assumed war operations that would connect these two distant territories. In peace time, Bihac and Kladusa had more connections with Zagreb than with Sarajevo. Businessmen say that the province, due to its natural orientation toward Karlovac, Rijeka, and Zagreb, was in fact part of the Croatian economic territory. Therefore, at the east of the province are the Bosnian Serbs, while its other three sides have, from the Serbian aggression against Croatia, been controlled by the Croatian Serbs. The international community calls the territory of the "Krajina" parastate the "Croatian UNPA's" (north and south). If, according to the Vance plan, which is a supplement to the Security Council resolutions, the UNPA's are reintegrated in the Croatian constitutional and legal system, then the Glina district would be in the north of west Bosnia, the Knin district in the south, and the territory of the municipality of Slunj, which, until the occupation, had a Croat majority, would bear on the province from the west. According to geopolitician Topalovic, the main points of support that permit control of the Autonomous Province of West Bosnia are mountains: Petrova Gora (Kordun), Zrinska Gora (Banija), Grmec (Bosanska Krajina), and Pljesivica (Lika). All these mountains are controlled by the Serbs, and there is no realistic support for the claim that the Muslim forces from West Bosnia would have any success in a war conflict with the Serbs. Thanks to the military aid that arrived in these territories through Croatia, the Muslims managed to defend themselves—with more or less success (they lost Prijedor, Sanski Most, and parts of Bosanska Krupa)—probably because the Serbs were satisfied with the territories they had occupied. According to military estimates, the Muslims from west Bosnia have no chance of retrieving the lost

territory by military means—because they are isolated and because of the balance of power.

The Agreement With the Croats and the Serbs

As opposed to Izetbegovic, who, despite the circumstances, forces the Muslim conflict with the Serbs, who completely surround them, Abdic seeks a different solution. Realizing that he is the inferior party, and that, without free roads, his enclave would be doomed to a quiet death, while wanting to keep the people and the territory under his rule, Abdic offered agreements to the Serbs and Croats on the principle of "I give to you, you give to me". He offered the Serbs transit through the railroad to Knin in return for the passage through the road to Karlovac, and the Croats the transit expenses for the free zone in the port of Rijeka. Abdic has already announced the consequence of such agreements: "The future west Bosnia will be a free customs country with the stable economic support of the great Croatian port of Rijeka, which is to function as a free customs zone." Zlatko Jusic, prime minister of the autonomous province of west Bosnia, tried to clarify this statement during a short talk in Zagreb: "The free customs zone would be introduced for a period of two years. What we do not have would arrive in the province under favorable conditions, and what we do have would be easier to transport abroad. Consequently, we would not be isolated, our people would not leave, and an economic environment favorable to development would thus be created. As soon as conditions allowed, we would carry out the privatization of ownership; we would do it even through decrees, since we see that the democratic system slows down the process. We are aware that the finishing of the process, with the free transit of people and goods, is the precondition for our joining Western, that is, the European civilization. This is our goal, and we will not give up on it."

The differences between the two concepts of organizing West Bosnia are now clearer. Izetbegovic's consists of a long-term war and the population surviving thanks to humanitarian aid and hoping for international military intervention, which creates favorable conditions for religious extremism, while Abdic, aware of the circumstances, is trying to preserve the people through negotiations and provide not only an existence for them, but also a living in accordance with the European standards.

Whom Does West Bosnia Belong To?

Looking at Croatian history, one can see that the diplomacy of the Republic of Dubrovnik made moves similar to Abdic's. This little oasis of Croatian statehood was for centuries building its prosperity by negotiating rather than employing its military forces against its powerful neighbors (Venice, Turkey....). Naturally, it paid for its freedom, but it in turn earned the money from those it gave money to, since every Dubrovnik contract included a clause stating that the Dubrovnik tradesmen had free passage through a certain empire or kingdom (naturally, a comparison with Apolonije's recent attempt at founding a Dubrovnik republic would not be valid, since Dubrovnik is connected to Croatia by continuous territory, and because a separate Croatian state did not exist at the time of the founding of the Republic of Dubrovnik).

However, Abdic is in an even worse position than the people of Dubrovnik, as they at least had an open passage into the world through the sea, while his West Bosnia is completely surrounded. His policy therefore has no alternative if there is a desire to preserve the people and the territory. If there is the desire to be the victim, all it takes is to yield to the myths of the past and to unrealistic ambitions. Everything will be over very soon. "Izetbegovic is still trying to make the Cazin Krajina a mass grave of the Muslim people, as he has done in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Abdic, aware of what disaster this policy would lead to. However, it seems that this policy cannot come about in West Bosnia. That is, it is almost completely unimportant who is going to win in the inter-Muslim conflict in West Bosnia. If Abdic wins, he will carry out his planned policy of alliance, and should by any chance Izetbegovic's forces win, they will also have to carry out Abdic's policies if they want the people and the territory to survive.

Through history, this province had leaders who easily changed military uniforms and allies, keeping in mind only the existence of the enclave. This is what Huska Miljkovic, the leader of the Muslim militia of the time, did during World War II. For a while he was an Ustasha, and the next moment he was a partisan. However, he preserved the people. This spirit of an autonomous enclave is at the same time the message to those who believe that the autonomous province of west Bosnia will take either the Serbian or the Croatian side. It will take the side of whoever is at its borders, unable to change its neighbor, but, weaker in military terms, capable of making a bearable ally out of them. However, in doing so, it will always remain its own, as it has for the past several centuries. Therefore, the thesis offered the Croats—"central Bosnia for western Bosnia"—is nothing but an unfounded evocation of something that will never happen.

Granic Reports to Chamber of Deputies

LD2701185394 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1510 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Report by Mate Granic, Croatian deputy prime minister and foreugn minister, to the Chamber of Deputies in Zagreb on 26 January—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed deputies: The peaceful reintegration of the temporarily occupied territories, the efforts to advance and consolidate relations with our neighbors, the very urgent need at the present juncture to halt the Muslim offensive in central Bosnia, and our participation in European processes of integration remain the main goals of Croatian policy.

As for the world position of the Republic of Croatia, over the last few weeks the president of the Republic personally and the government and our diplomats have been totally preoccupied with, and have spent most energy in, putting in order relations with neighboring countries. Relations with neighbors are always seen as the first criterion that the international community uses to assess the policy in general, the level of its democratic development, and the level of civilization in a country. In the case of young countries and democracies such as Croatia, the world relies on the nature of their relations with their neighbors to assess the level of their maturity and their capability to join integrational process on a wider scale.

In addition, when outlining the strategic attributes of our foreign policy, we placed our relations with neighbors at the very top. Namely, we cannot enter Europe over the heads of our neighbors. We made efforts of differing intensity and at different times but with the same amount of dedication to normalize—in some cases to remove the initial and in some the old obstacles on the road towards full normalization of relations with the countries in our immediate and near neighborhood: with Bosnia-Herzegovina, with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia, Montenegro, with Slovenia, with Italy, and even with Macedonia. We can proudly say that in relations with some of our neighbors, we no longer need to put anything in order but only try and advance them. I refer here to Hungary and Austria. However, I firmly believe that one day we shall come before this chamber to talk only about further improvements in goodneighborly relations of the democratic, sovereign, and integrated republic of Croatia, which we aspire towards and which is our prime goal.

In any case, all we did in the preceding period was governed by this goal. However, it should be stressed that at the same time we have made and will continue to make considerable efforts to bring forward the date when Croatia will join many of the European and world processes.

The president of the Republic, Dr Franjo Tudjman, headed our state delegations at negotiations in Bonn, Brussels, and Geneva. In addition, he met a large number of world statesmen. In Zagreb he had meetings with a member of the U.S. Government, Ambassador Madeleine Albright, former French president Valerie Giscard d'Estaing and the cochairmen of the international conference.

I have just returned from a visit to the Council of Europe—that inevitable and decisive stop on the road to functional integration in the European Union. Prime Minister Valentic and I talked with the Slovenes in Ljubljana yesterday. I had a very successful visit to Bulgaria, I will be meeting Italian Foreign Minister Benjamino Andreatta in Rome at the beginning of February. We plan to initiate a procedure geared towards joining the process known as Partnership for Peace under the auspices of NATO and we are conducting bilateral talks within the framework of the CSCE on regional security arrangements both in the Mediterranean and in this part of Europe.

The normalization of relations with our neighbors, regional security arrangements, participation in the Partnership for Peace and membership in the European Union and NATO itself—with an active role in economic arrangements—this is part of the network of the continuous activities and logical objectives of Croatia's foreign policy. The realization of these objectives perfectly, clearly, and permanently determines the position of the sovereign, unified, and integral Republic of Croatia in Europe and the world.

It occasionally happens in this process that our efforts are not in proportion to the results just as it happens that a positive result can be reached unexpectedly owing to a favorable alignment of circumstances. However, this is also a process where even the longest journeys begin with a first step in which politics are an art of the possible but in which the essence and objective are always clearly defined and unmistakably in the interest of the Croatian state, the Croatian nation, and all citizens of the Republic of Croatia.

In this respect, most of the attention of the Croatian and foreign public over the past couple of days was focused on the joint [Serbian-Croatian] declaration signed in Geneva on 20 January. Before this, an equal degree of attention was commanded by our negotiations with the Muslim side. Both talks were conducted within the framework of the international conference as well as through numerous bilateral channels and mediatory efforts. The talks have a continuity, sometimes they are mutually interdependent and they are also known to have affected the development of events in the UN Protected Areas.

We should reiterate this clearly: Croatia is not conducting talks with anybody to the detriment of a third, absent party.

Ladies and gentlemen, when it comes to Croatia, the goal of both negotiations is the normalization of Croatian-Serb relations and interstate relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the permanent resolution of overall Croatian-Muslim relations. We entered these

talks guided by the principles of our peace-loving policy and obligations stemming from our participation in the international peace conference.

But at every moment we were deeply aware that the war of aggression within the Greater Serbia project is the main reason for and the only real source of the crisis and all the indescribable suffering both in Croatia and in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Hence, at that time we gave priority to our relations with the Muslims, while we have achieved considerable and important results in out relations with the Serbian side.

However, it is beyond any doubt and it comes as proof of our priorities that we offered much more to the Muslim side and are still offering it under certain conditions: a treaty on the establishment of a permanent and global peace between the Croat and the Bosnian Muslim nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the foundations of their coexistence. Such a proposal was repeatedly offered to them in Bonn, Brussels, and Geneva. This is a precondition for the permanent normalization of relations. It is actually a proposal for an alliance between two nations and two states, for halting the war, eliminating consequences of the aggression and destruction, and for long-lasting and mutually beneficial cooperation in all spheres from the economy, to security and foreign policy.

For such a proposal which is in essence a refinement of the overall and consistent Croatian policy towards Bosnia-Herzegovina, and also a further expansion of the peace initiative, Croatia and her president received numerous praises from foreign statesmen: in Bonn, Brussels and Geneva, and also at many meetings with foreign ministers Kinkel, Claes, Cetin, Hurd, Mrs af Ugglas, [name indistinct], and Mock.

Despite such offers and such assessments of our policies and efforts, there have been no satisfactory results so far that could place the progress achieved in our relations with the Serb side in the right perspective and context. I am deeply convinced of the existence of such a possibility, and we shall do our utmost in this respect, because the normalization of relations with the Muslims and their state entity in wartime, and especially in peace, is of strategic importance for and in the interest of the Croats and the Republic of Croatia.

The joint Geneva declaration is an important political document, maybe even a crucial step in the normalization of relations between the two signatory countries and an important contribution to the beginning of the establishment of a lasting peace, stability, and security in this part of Europe. If the Serb side displays goodwill, this document will determine the future course of the normalization of the situation in both states and the normalization of relations between the two states and it will also have an impact on the position of minorities in these states. This is a document whose final form was shaped by the international community, but also by the dynamics of the international conference on former Yugoslavia.

This declaration contains several elements that could be relevant to UN Security Council Resolution 871—in case a real peace is achieved—inter-state relations were mentioned, offices are being opened. It was said that the two sides should be guided by the principles of the UN Charter and the basic tenets of the CSCE in the establishment of goodneighborly relations. Moreover, an official statement from Belgrade calls on the Serbs in Croatia to regulate their relations with the Croatian authorities in the Republic of Croatia. This represents the first, and very important, step in the normalization of relations between Zagreb and Belgrade and it should lead to the establishment of full diplomatic relations. This is also an important step towards the peaceful reintegration of the UN Protected Areas into the constitutional, legal, political, and economic system of our country which would effectively finalize the integrity of the sovereign Republic of Croatia.

This once again reiterates Croatia's determination to establish peace in these areas and to restore and consolidate stability and security, primarily through political means, in other words through dialogue and negotiations in an atmosphere of goodwill and respect for the individual interests of the two sides and for the efforts outlined in the documents of the international community such as the European Union's action plan and relevant documents of the UN Security Council and General Assembly. The international community has already expressed and will continue to give us support for this policy. If we continue to pursue this policy, we will move closer not only to finding genuine and lasting solutions but also to the political, European milieu to which we belong historically.

It is important to stress that both the comprehensive offer made in Bonn to the Muslim side and the joint declaration consistently reflect the basic idea and the logical theme of President Tudjman's peace initiative and to a large extent represent a concrete step toward implementing it. As a vital step toward the day when the two sovereign states are eventually recognized within their international borders the declaration is seen as being of crucial importance for contributing to and enhancing the effectiveness of the international conference and for helping to implement all the points in the European Union's action plan on the so-called modus vivendi, or rather of Resolution 871 which is so crucial to us.

Any delay in normalizing Croat-Serb relations, or rather the absence of any shifts in them hamper the efforts to normalize the situation in this part of Europe. Accordingly, any shift in this sphere must be welcomed and supported.

However, while on the one hand we will continue to normalize relations with the Serb side in order to accomplish our own objectives as soon as possible—in particular those concerning the temproarily occupied territories—on the other, we will again try to restore dialogue with the Muslims to tackle all vital issues, including the territorial integrity of the two entities in a future state, releasing prisoners, normalizing the humanitarian situation, in particular, providing gurantees for the free passage of humanitarian convoys, and the general state of relations—in other words, harmonizing our Bonn proposal with their reply to us in Geneva recently.

The Bonn proposal for negotiations and agreements to benefit both peoples and peace in this part of Europe will remain on long-term offer. However, the Muslim side's current behavior demonstrates a lack of genuine desire to find a lasting and systematic solution to Croat-Muslim relations and to establishing appropriate relations with the Croatian state.

There are very clear indications that the Muslim side wishes to invalidate and reject the Geneva documents on the establishment and set-up of the union of republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the negotiations, and even more so in its public relations, the Muslim side very skillfully evades and jumps from the concept of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the union of the republics and then into the Bosniak Muslim entity, mixing and intertwining the actual situation on the ground with the real level which has been achieved in negotiations.

In addition to this, by repeatedly issuing demands for the replacement of the negotiating forum, it has been trying to return the negotiations to square one. This has considerably burdened our negotiations, because the other side's definition is constantly changing. In negotiations, and even more so through its behavior in the field, the Muslim side has shown that it was not ready to recognize the equality and constitutionality of the Croat people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, nor is it ready to recognize all indisputable achievements of the struggle of the Croat people and the realization of its right to self-determination expressed through the establishment of the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna.

By shunning the union of the republics, which is the level of the resolution achieved in objective terms in the negotiating process, and which is a euphemism for the agreement reached aboard the "Invincible", back to the model of the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Muslim leadership is in reality trying to negate the Croat republic of Herceg-Bosna.

The current Muslim offensive in central Bosnia, with its horrific proportions, duration, and tragic consequences, most obviously proves the lack of real will and reveals the genuine intentions of the current Muslim leadership—the eviction of the Croats from their historic and ethnic areas in central Bosnia. This is in complete contravention of the fundamental documents and constitutional principles of the present-day republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the principles of the set-up and demarcation within the union of the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This entitles and obligates the president, the assembly, and the government of the Republic of Croatia, in line with the constitution and their own conscience, to do everything in the political, diplomatic, humanitarian, and every other legitimate field in order not only to stop that merciless offensive but also to secure the survival of the Croats and guarantee them a life worthy of human beings in those historically ethnic Croat areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Croats must remain in their homes in central Bosnia, which is in the interest of Bosnia-Herzegovina and of peace in this part of Europe.

Despite everything, we again call on Bosnian Muslim representatives to continue negotiations in good faith so that a permanent and just solution for all sides be achieved, peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina restored, a permanent community of equal constitutive nations set up, and conditions for their coexistence be preserved. If the Muslim offensive is halted it is not yet too late for politics and negotiations. At the same time we again wish to express the readiness of the Croatian side to work toward and persevere in reaching precisely such a political, peaceful, negotiated and mutually beneficial solution.

In the course of the last meeting between two delegations, i.e. between presidents Tudjman and Izetbegovic, certain progress was achieved as regards [Muslim] access to the sea, without calling into question the territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia. An agreement in principle on Mostar and the hydroelectric system on the Neretva River was also achieved. However, the important problem of central Bosnia remains to be solved: In this respect demands by the Bosnian Muslim side were ultimatum-like and thwarted any agreement. At the same time Izetbegovic's sudden demands as regards central Bosnia called into question the very principle, which has been one of the foundations of the negotiating process so far and which had been coordinated by all three sides, according to which the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina would get 17.5 percent of the territory.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen. Let me say just a few words about our relations with Slovenia: A meeting that took place in Ljubljana yesterday between the prime ministers and ministers of foreign affairs of our two neighboring states was, in many aspects, a great step forward in the removal of obstacles burdening bilateral relations, i.e., as Prime Minister Nikica Valentic stressed after the talks, it transpires that no problem is of such a nature as to prevent the interest of the two nations and the two states in the establishment of better and friendlier relations.

In brief, as regards open issues, a complete agreement on the Krsko nuclear power plant is likely to be reached by the end of the summer; we have coordinated a trade agreement as a framework for the future exchange on the

free trade principle, and also an agreement on payment transactions. In a few days we could settle the issue of our property relations. Standpoints regarding Ljubljanska Banka have been clarified and brought closer, agreements on air traffic, fishing, and cooperation in culture and education have either been completed or are nearing completion. Through treaties on employment and social security, which are also nearing completion, the issue of employment of Croatian citizens in the Republic of Slovenia will be resolved. A joint commission will continue work on the demarcation of the border line.

The Croatian side presented to the Slovene side a proposal in writing on the Bay of Piran with a number of interesting solutions as regards political, customs and ecological control and fishing. In line with these proposals, Piran would become a linking bay—not a contentious issue on which international mediation could make decisions should it become necessary.

An increase in bilateral trade between the two neighbors was singled out as one of the most urgent tasks. Finally, it was agreed that the same delegations meet again in Zagreb on 7 February to sign the agreements that have already been coordinated and to continue the dialogue.

As regards our relations with Italy, i.e., the forthcoming 3 February meeting and talks with Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta in Rome, I would like to stress that on that occasion we wish to remove all remaining misunderstandings in our relations and thus give a fresh impetus to the good-neighborliness of the two states. For us, Italy is not only one of the most important business partners, but is also an influential state and a factor creating European and world politics to which we are inevitably inclined, and with which we are very closely cooperating in regional organizations, such as the central European initiative or Alpe-Adria. We are convinced that Italy will play an even more important role in the resolution of the crisis in this area and also in the peace-time reconstruction.

My visit to the Council of Europe in the course of which I had numerous complex, but very important talks, showed that it understood our position, but also that Croatia can and must do most on its own. Further strengthening and widening of democracy in all its forms is our first and fundamental imperative. Croatia has kept its special guest status in the Council of Europe, while the change of that status will depend on the development of the situation, the nature and the course of a denouement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Esteemed deputies. We attach great importance to the recent NATO summit, bearing in mind the pivotal position of this organization in the building of an adequate system of security and stability in Europe and the world in general. Our particular attention was attracted by decisions on further strengthening of the so-called NATO European component, or wing, on the basis of the development and strengthening of the European Union, i.e., the WEU [Western European Union]. Croatia supports NATO standpoints on political and security priorities, particularly as regards support for the stabilization of new European democracies, the further improvement of the CSCE process and mechanisms, the struggle against terrorism, and arms control and disarmament.

Even though some NATO standpoints are inadequate when it comes to the real state of affairs and the need to establish security in our continent, particularly as regards crises in areas such as the Balkans, we derive hope from the fact that NATO has expressed its awareness of the interdependability of security in all democratic European states, and readiness in principle to gradually extend its membership. In this sense an invitation was sent to European states and CSCE members to develop direct cooperation in practice with NATO through Partnership for Peace. Principles and goals of Partnership for Pease are in their essence in agreement with Croatia's standpoints and its long-term interests, and therefore we welcome them expressing our readiness to join the implementation of that initiative.

We are not regarding our possible participation in the Partnership from the standpoint of our current defense needs and interests, but rather as a way and modus of standardization and long-term inclusion of our defense system and forces into the institutional framework for the defense of the democratic order, security and stability in Europe and the world in general.

Ladies and gentlemen. We have achieved significant moves forward in the strengthening of our international position and thus our internal security. We have approached our main goal by several more steps. But in the forthcoming period very complex tasks, fresh huge challenges are awaiting us. Quick breakthroughs are possible, but also long-lasting frustrations in the implementation of our fundamental policy. It will be necessary to make quick decisions, react quickly and even more quickly adapt to circumstances in order to achieve our strategic goals to an optimum degree and fulfil our national task consistently.

We are leaving the war behind and entering peace and Europe, being aware that forces that pull us back are still strong. Two words are decisive in this connection: National unity and the future of the nation and the state. Therefore I call on you to unite and give support to each other when it comes to our mutual goal. Let me paraphrase a well-known statesman: Let's not allow the opening up of disputes between the past and the present lest we should find out at one moment that we have lost the future.

Thank you, madam deputy speaker.

Krajina Serbs Protest Albright Article

LD2701173294 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1346 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 27 Jan (TANJUG)—The Foreign Ministry of the republic of Serb Krajina sent a letter

today to all diplomatic and consular missions in Belgrade, warning that the text carried by the 24 January newsletter of the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade was written in the spirit of the falsehoods concocted by the Croatian propaganda headquarters.

The letter, also forwarded to TANJUG, says that by writing the article in the US embassy's newsletter, Madeleine Albright—the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations—had "abused the hospitality of the Serbian people and overstepped the norms of diplomatic conduct" because she called on "all countries to help the war crimes tribunal."

The text implies that "the Ovcara mass grave near Vukovar contains evidence about Serbian crimes against the Croats—something the European civilization of the 20th Century ought to be ashamed of." [passage omitted]

Zhirinovskiy Arrives for 'Private' Visit

AU2701194594 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] The leader of the Russian nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, arrived to Brnik airport after a one-hour delay this afternoon. The mere announcement of his arrival received considerable attention in the domestic and international media. The controversial Russian politician is paying a private visit to our country. Immediately upon his arrival he left for Bled. He will be staying in Portoroz tomorrow and Sunday, and on Monday he is supposed to visit Serbia.

Offers Russian Guarantees

AU2701202894 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Report by Fadil Smajic]

[Text] The leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy arrived late this afternoon for a four-day visit to Slovenia. Zhirinovskiy calls his visit a vacation, and after a series of bombastic statements, he has chosen Portoroz and Bled as the places for his vacation. The controversial Russian politician arrived accompanied by six bodyguards, although his headquarters consider that there will be no excessive scandals during Zhirinovskiy's stay in Slovenia. Zhirinovskiy will hold a news conference for domestic and foreign journalists in Bled tomorrow.

Zhirinovskiy is otherwise in contact with the National-Socialist Alliance of Slovenia, an extreme right party from Velenje, at whose invitation he has actually arrived. Via the Russian Embassy in Ljubljana, he has told them that he would not be able to attend this party's congress, which will be held on 12 February. However, he will be represented by Alexey Ivanovich (?Lepenkin), who is at the same time also an official of the Russian Embassy in Ljubljana.

As the prelude to his visit in Slovenia, since it was questionable whether he would get a Slovene entry visa, Zhirinovskiy issued a message to the Slovene Government, the Foreign Ministry, and the Slovene public. In this message he says that he considers Slovenia to be a highly developed and highly cultured central European country that, following the disintegration of Yugoslavia, broke off with its Balkan past, even though it now influences considerably the outcome of the crisis in the Balkans. Zhirinovskiy, among other things, further says, I quote: Myself and the party are interested in dialogue with the official representatives of your country regarding an as quick as possible end to the bloodshed in Bosnia and the recognition of the new reality on the Yugoslav territory. End quote.

In his message to the Slovenes, Zhirinovskiy favors the recognition of the states that have emerged in the Balkans within their internationally recognized borders and then adds a sentence that certainly will not go unnoticed in Slovenia. The message is: We favor that Russia becomes a guarantor of the security, stability, and independence of Slovenia.

Party Invites Izetbegovic

LD2601174494 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] The National-Social Alliance of Slovenia [NSSS] last night sent an invitation to Alija Izetbegovic to visit Slovenia and meet Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, president of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, who will be in Slovenia from 27 to 31 January, the Slovene press agency reports. The NSSS, which had originally invited Zhirinovskiy to Slovenia, announced that he would put forward new proposals for the settlement of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Slovene Foreign Ministry today denied, in a statement for HINA, reports that Liberal Democratic Party Leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will meet Slovene Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle during his visit to Slovenia. The Foreign Ministry said that Zhirinovskiy's visit to Ljubljana is private and that no meetings with any official bodies are scheduled.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Arrives For Visit

AU2701215694 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 2100 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko has arrived for a visit in our country this evening. During the visit he will meet with President Milan Kucan, Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle, and Davorin Kracun, minister for economic relations and development. The visit of the Ukrainian foreign minister is important primarily because of the economic issues between the countries.

Federal

Jovanovic, Hungary's Jeszenszky Comment on Talks

AU2701214694 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Statements by Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky and FRY Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic in Belgrade on 27 January; recorded—Jeszenszky speaks in English with superimposed Serbo-Croatian translation]

[Text] [Jeszenszky] What language shall I use? English? Unfortunately I do not speak Serbo-Croatian. Thank you very much. However, this is not enough. Well, I had a one-hour conversation with President Milosevic and I was glad that Mr. [Andros] Agoston, chairman of the Democratic Community of Vojvodina Hungarians, attended this conversation on the Serbian side. We discussed both bilateral issues and economic ones—how we can work on the resumption of economic relations between the two countries, how we should work, and what kind of plans we should establish. We should obviously admit that the basic problem is economic life, and this is largely as a result of sanctions. I have listened very carefully to the president's stands and opinions, as well as Minister Jovanovic's on how a solution for Bosnia can be found. It is really not for me to say whether conditions offered for peace are sufficient, but I hope that on the basis of the proposals of the European Union, the so-called Juppe-Kinkel proposals, it will be possible to bring this conflict to an end. I can see that there is a readiness on the Serbian side to adopt these proposals and recommendations.

With Mr. President I also discussed the question of the so-called Krajinas, regions that are close to Hungary, such as the Baranja region. We have a large number of refugees from Baranja who were forced to flee. I also expressed hope that a serious facility such as an oil pipeline should be opened. This is very important for Hungary, but also for Yugoslavia. I think that the present situation is such that the relations between Serbia and Croatia are promising and that this will perhaps enable all of us to enjoy the fruits of this facility which was in fact a joint investment of the whole of Yugoslavia and Hungary.

I also think that it is important not only for your and my country, but also for Europe that these hostilities end and, as I said in an earlier interview, Hungary will be very happy to support the lifting of sanctions, but this can only happen when it receives international approval.

[Jovanovic] It has turned out that with the end of the Yugoslav crisis coming nearer, prospects are opening for the strengthening of our relations with neighboring countries. The arrival of Mr. Jeszenszky here is also the first swallow, the harbinger announcing that the end of the crisis is coming closer and that the time for beginning the normalization of relations with neighboring and other countries is coming. We also had this in mind when we examined the prospects of development of bilateral relations. We also touched upon the conclusion of projects linked with the Belgrade-Budapest-Vienna railroad and highway. We also pointed to the geographic-strategic importance that the two countries have, being on the road connecting Europe and Asia. The interest number one in order that peace returns to Bosnia-Herzegovina immediately and that negative developments are prevented is for all countries to advocate immediate suspension or lifting of sanctions. This is the shortest and easiest cure for the belligerent policy that the Muslim leadership in Sarajevo persistently carries out at the persuasion of forces from outside who see their interests in continuing the crisis and continuing the war.

Talks Summarized

LD2901195394 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1745 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 27 Jan (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia and Hungary agree that both sides should prepare for the period after the sanctions have been lifted in order to be ready immediately to expand their cooperation in all fields within the scope of their realistic potentials. This was said in Belgrade this evening during the first round of Yugoslav-Hungarian talks at foreign ministerial level. [passage omitted]

This evening [Hungarian Foreign Minister] Geza Jeszenszky briefed his hosts about the essence of Hungary's foreign policy and its European orientation. In this orientation, Jeszenszky said, priority is given to Hungary's relations with its neighbors, which, he was told, coincides with the Yugoslav orientation.

The Hungarian guest was told that the FRY is also Europe-oriented, that our country is very close to being admitted to the Council of Europe and other important European institutions, but is kept away from the European processes of integration with the outbreak of the Yugoslav crisis.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladimir Jovanovic informed his Hungarian counterpart and his associates about the present moment in the Yugoslav crisis, particularly about the war in Bosnia. He said that Yugoslavia made a great contribution to the establishment of a just peace in that former Yugoslav republic and that, unfortunately one side (Muslims) is not ready to accept a solution which the other two warring sides have accepted. Despite this the FRY will continue to invest efforts to stop the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to have the sanctions lifted.

Vladislav Jovanovic spoke at length about the sanctions against the FRY. He underscored that their maintenance leads to the escalation of the war in Bosnia and the destabilization of the Balkans. Besides, the Yugoslav foreign minister said, the sanctions are not only affecting the FRY but many other countries as well, especially neighboring ones.

In view of this, the Yugoslav side said, the FRY expects neighboring countries to more resolutely oppose the extension of the sanctions and hopes that Hungary will make an effort to have them lifted as soon as possible.

Opinions were also exchanged this evening on the activities of the CSCE. In this context, the talks centered on Hungary's role as a member of the so-called CSCE troika—the former, the current, and the future chairing country—as well as its role as that institution's chairing country next year.

The Yugoslav side expressed its readiness and wish to have Yugoslavia readmitted to the CSCE as a full-fledged member. However, it was stressed, such a decision should be made by those who had frozen Yugoslavia's membership and the FRY's readmittance should be dignified and without preconditions. [passage omitted]

Geza Jeszenszky was told this evening that Belgrade appreciates what Hungary has been doing so far in its relations with the FRY. Hungary is one of the few countries that refused to introduce visas for Yugoslav passport holders since the outbreak of the crisis, while other countries had done so for less justified reasons. Consequently, it is in Yugoslavia's interest to improve its ties with Hungary and to gradually promote cooperation in all areas relevant to the two countries' needs and potentials, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky was told in Belgrade this evening.

Army Denies Involvement in Bosnia Fighting

LD2701191194 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1635 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 27 January (TANJUG)—In reaction to the writings of certain papers and agencies which accuse the Yugoslav Army [VJ] of direct involvement in the war in Bosnia, the head of the information service of the Yugoslav Army's general staff, Colonel Ljubomir Stojadinovic, told TANJUG today that there were no VJ units on the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The high-ranking VJ officer further said: "We are not excluding the possibility that citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia— former members of the VJ among them—are fighting on the side of the Army of the Serb Republic as volunteers. We are certain that both the domestic and the world public are aware of the fact that a large number of mercenaries, fanatics, adventurers, and volunteers from the Islamic countries are fighting against the Serbs as members of the Muslim army in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Volunteers from the FRY, as free people, cannot be denied the right to decide on their own fate and fight for the survival of their people, especially since Islamic fanaticism has acquired planetary proportions in its struggle against the Serbs.

VJ troops and heavy weapons have not been moved towards Bosnia or any other state. They are deployed exclusively on the sovereign territory of the FRY, in accordance with assessments on the creation of the most favorable conditions for the defense of the sovereignty and peace of the FRY and its citizens. The latest accusations against the VJ directly justify these precautions," said the spokesman for the VJ general staff.

Serbia

Talks on New Assembly Speaker Postponed

LD2601182794 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1728 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Jan (TANJUG)—After a three-hour session this evening, deputies of the republican parliament failed to agree on a joint solution and decided to hold another discussion on Tuesday [1 February] on candidatures for president [speaker] of a new Serbian Assembly. The session was broken off after heads of the deputies' groups of five parliamentary parties—in the absence of radicals—agreed to resume the discussion on Tuesday in order to reach a compromise concerning the president of the Serbian Assembly.

Seselj Urges Serbs To Oppose NATO Intervention

AU2701170494 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] All preparations for the congress of the Serbian Radical Party have been completed. The Central Fatherland Administration of the party will be elected by a show of hands and the chairman will be elected by secret ballot among several candidates. This was what Party Chairman Vojislav Seselj announced at the regular news conference. The journalists' attention was mostly attracted by Radical's stands on the interparty agreements on the election of the new chairman of the republican parliament. Dragoljub Stankic has the details:

[Begin recording] [Stankic] It is the principled stand of the Serbian Radical Party that a member of an opposition party be elected Serbian Assembly chairman. The first solution, that Vuk Draskovic be elected, is unacceptable to the Radicals. The other proposal, the one that was accepted, failed to receive a sufficient number of votes, Vojislav Seselj said. Vuk Draskovic did not consult anybody about the second round of voting, but decided himself that the same proposal be given. We opposed that, Seselj said.

He said that he proposed that the candidate be a member of the Democratic Party or some other party and asked why that person had to be from Depos. We complied with everything that was agreed among the opposition parties, but we are not going to allow Vuk Draskovic to speak on behalf of the whole of the opposition, because he is not authorized to do so, Vojislav Seselj pointed out. He commented on the situation among the opposition parties as follows:

[Seselj] I do not think that an opposition bloc should be formed, nor do I think that there has been a rift among the opposition parties. A rift can only occur if there was unity before, and, in this case, no unity existed. We only agreed upon one specific question.

[Stankic] If there is an intervention by NATO, Seselj called on the Serbian people to oppose it with all means. In that case, one should respond fiercely against Croatian and Muslim targets and do so indiscriminately. And, as he put it, one should attack UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] units as well, wherever they may be. [end recording]

Milosevic Receives Hungarian Foreign Minister

LD2701202094 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1836 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Jan (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic this evening received Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky who arrived in Belgrade today. In open talks, they exchanged views regarding the improvement of bilateral relations between Serbia, i.e. the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Hungary, and also issues of importance for stability in the region.

Both sides concluded that they were interested in the development of good-neighborly relations based on the observance of equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs. Special emphasis was placed on economic relations between the two countries for which conditions exist. It was stressed that economic sanctions against Serbia, i.e. the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, have been inflicting damage on the economies of both countries and that it was in their mutual interest that they be abolished as soon as possible.

Serbia attaches great importance to the potential for economic cooperation with Hungary, particularly in the sphere of energy, traffic, trade, and tourism. The Danube, as the largest European waterway, which links Serbia and Hungary and also other countries of the Danube region, represents an important economic advantage for both countries. In addition, as regards the overall development of traffic, it is important to construct a fast rail line from Belgrade to the Hungarian border, and also a modern Belgrade-Subotica highway that will enable the extension of more efficient economic links between partners in both countries.

It was also pointed out that the Hungarian and Serbian national minorities in the two countries objectively strengthened their interest in maintaining stable interstate relations and building mutual trust. It was emphasized that members of the Hungarian national minority in Serbia enjoyed all the rights guaranteed by the Serbian Constitution, in conformity with the highest standards prescribed by the CSCE documents and international law.

The two men also discussed efforts to wind up the peace process for former Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bearing in mind that the Republic of Serbia had made a great contribution in this respect, and that the Serb side had fulfilled its share of responsibilities stemming from the agreement reached with the European Union, hope was expressed that the international community would abandon its one-sided approach to the Yugoslav crisis and lift the economic sanctions. This means that Hungary, a neighboring country, should adopt an objective stance in line with its latest views on this subject, which would facilitate the surmounting of open questions and have a positive impact on the development of bilateral relations.

The meeting was also attended by Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic, Serbian Assembly deputy [and leader of Vojvodina Hungarians] Andras Agoston, and others.

Macedonia

Gligorov Receives CSCE Official Stoel

AU2601203594 Skopje MIC in English 26 Jan 94

[Unattributed report: "Attempts for Outside Intervention"]

[Text] The President of the Republic of Macedonia Kiro Gligorov received yesterday the CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Max Van der Stoel. During the talks, which were also attended by the head of the CSCE mission in Macedonia Ambassador Norman Anderson, they exchanged opinions on the current situation in the inter-ethnic relations and the acceptance of the Republic of Macedonia to the CSCE.

The High Commissioner Mr. Stoel highly assessed the efforts and policy in Macedonia for the development of the inter-ethnic relations. He expressed the conviction that regardless of the current problems, the development of these relations will continue in the function of the peace and stability in the country and in the region, which is a confirmed interest of the CSCE. At the same time, Mr. Stoel informed that the efforts in the CSCE for the acceptance of Macedonia were still continuing.

President Gligorov informed the High Commissioner about the current situation in the inter-ethnic relations and expressed concern over the latest attempts from the neighborhood to interfere from outside in the internal affairs of Macedonia and over the inter-party relations in Macedonia. Mr. Gligorov was convinced that the Republic of Macedonia will finally take its place at the CSCE, to the benefit of the stability and security of the south Balkan region.

Cost of Living Increases by 13 Percent in Jan

AU2701181894 Skopje MIC in English 27 Jan 94

[Unattributed report: "Consumer Basket For January"]

[Text] According to the calculations of the Republic Bureau for the Advancement of the Household, the January consumer basket is some 12.4 percent more expensive than the December one, while the December

figure is 13 percent higher than in November. In November last year 4,970 denars were needed for the minimum required food for a four member family, in December 5,799, while during the first months of this year this figure rose to 6,519 denars. The price of the consumer basket is constantly rising and during the period January-December its value increased 2.5 times, that is, 276 percent. The January basket on the other hand compared to the same last years has increased 300 percent. The indicators used to show this increase are the price increases of the milk, pastas, bread and the 11 percent increase in the price of milk.

Albanian Accuses Party of 'Anti-Macedonian' Policy

AU2701211894 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 27 Jan 94

[Text] At a session of the Macedonian Parliament today, a deputy from the Albanian Party of Democratic Prosperity [name indistinct] accused the VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Party of Macedonian National Unity] of following an anti-Macedonian policy. He claimed that members of the VMRO-DPMNE leadership frequently visited Bulgaria and obtained large amounts of money from there.

In reply to the charges, Dosta Dimovska, deputy chairman of the VMRO-DPMNE, accused the Albanian party, asserting that its leaders often travel to Albania to receive instructions and that, in practice, they place themselves at the service of a foreign state.

Stojan Andov, chairman of the Macedonian Parliament, offered his services as an arbitrator. He declared that Macedonia is a democratic state and everyone can travel anywhere he or she likes, but that people's deputies must conduct themselves in word and deed in their country's interests.

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